

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 17, 20 to 24 and 26 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 6, 20, 22, 24 and 26 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, we acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 6-17, 20-24, and 26 contain allowable subject matter. As suggested by the Examiner, we have rewritten claim 6 in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim 1. Accordingly, we submit that claim 6 is now patentable. We further submit that because claims 7-17 depend from claim 6, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 6 is patentable.

We have rewritten claims 20, 22 and 24 to be in independent form and to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 18 and 19. Accordingly, we submit that claims 20, 22 and 24 are now patentable. We further submit that because claims 21 and 23 depend from claims 20 and 22 respectively, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 20 and 22 are patentable.

We have rewritten claim 26 in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim 25. Accordingly, we submit that claim 26 is now patentable.

In the Drawings:

We acknowledge the Examiner's objections to the drawings and propose amending Fig. 1 to correct misidentified reference numerals and to add missing reference numerals (indicated in red on the attached sheet). These corrections conform the figures to the specification. We ask that the Examiner approve the drawing changes.

Claim Objections

We have addressed the Examiner's objections to the claims (see paragraph 2 of the Office Action) by adopting the Examiner's proposed revisions.

Prior Art Rejections

Independent claim 1

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Ullenius et al. (EP 1 253 018 A1) under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b). We submit that Ullenius does not disclose or suggest a mounting structure for mounting the spindle of at least one of the ribbon transport devices at one end so as to permit the respective spindle to move relative to the supporting structure in a direction transverse to the spindle axis in response to changing generally radial forces exerted on the spindle as changes in ribbon tension occur in the ribbon feed path, as recited in amended claim 1.

Ullenius spindles do not move with respect to its supporting structure. Rather, Ullenius teaches "servo-controlled dancing arms at both the ribbon supply and the ribbon take-up spindles to control the ribbon tension" (Ullenius, column 2, lines 7-8). Specifically, Ullenius teaches that the dancing arms pivot (Ullenius, column 7, line 1) in response to increases and decreases in ribbon tension in order to maintain a constant ribbon tension around the ribbon feed path (Ullenius, column 7 lines 48-49). In contrast to Ullenius, the invention recited in claim 1, does not rely on rotation of a dancing arm, but on a spindle of at least one of the ribbon transport devices to permit the respective spindle to move relative to the supporting structure in a direction transverse to the spindle axis.

For the reasons set forth above, we submit that independent claim 1 is patentable. We further submit that because claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant : Paul Mills
Serial No. : 10/828,409
Filed : April 20, 2004
Page : 13 of 13

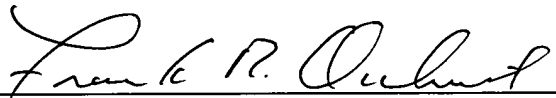
Attorney's Docket No.: 11033-065001 / A10871US

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket Number 11033-065001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: JUNE 10, 2005



Frank R. Occhiuti
Reg. No. 35,306

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

Applicant : Paul Mills
Serial No. : 10/828,409
Filed : April 20, 2004
Page : 10 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 11033-065001 / A10871US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawing includes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

In Figure 1 the misidentified reference numeral "22" is replaced by the correct reference numeral "23."

Attachment following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page)

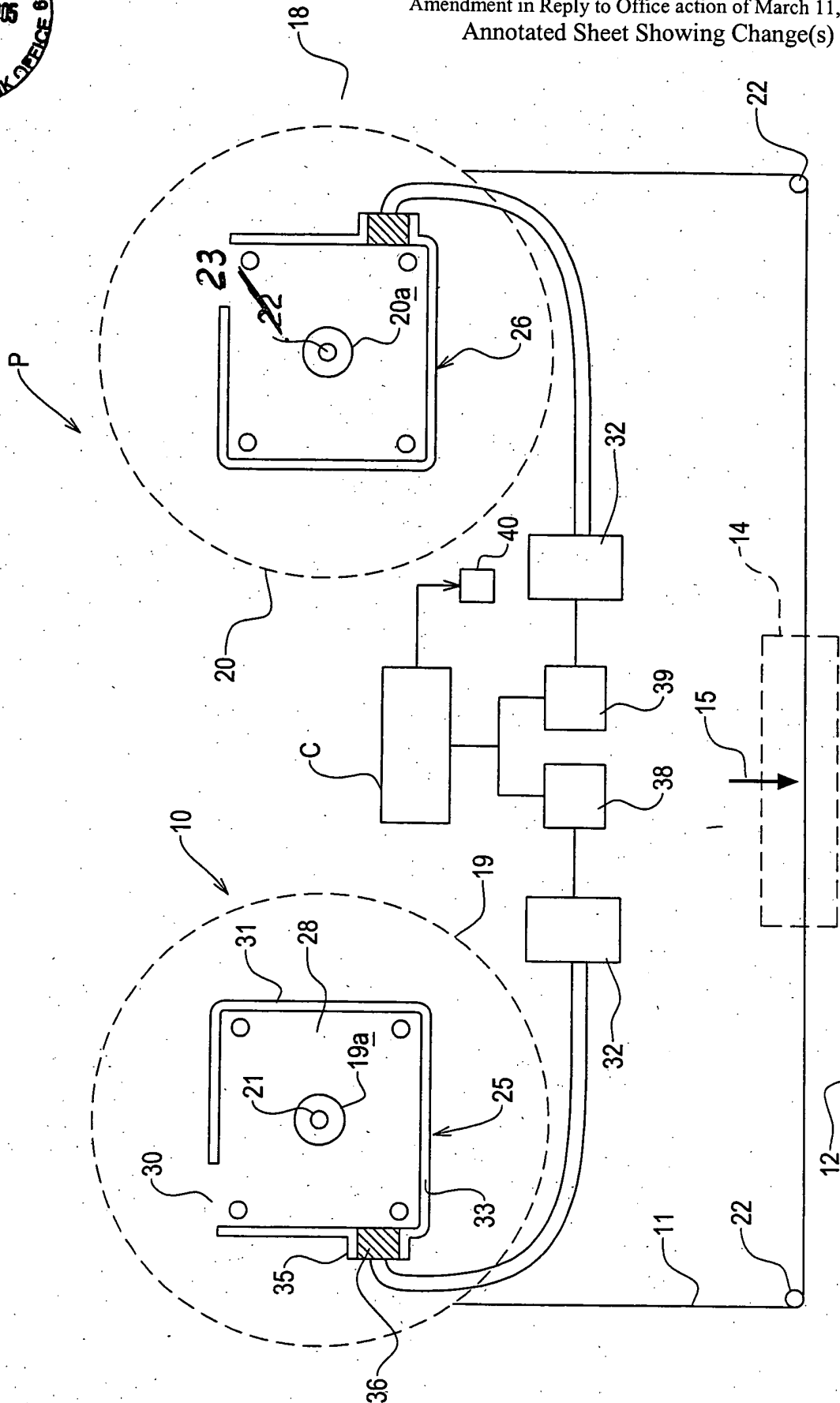


FIG 1